

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2013**

First Selectman Adams called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: John Adams, Ronald Desrosiers-via tele conference, B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

Also present: Barbarajean Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer, Michael Guarco Board of Finance Chairman, Frederick Moffa Board of Finance Member

Selectman King began the review of Public Works and Environment. Categories under this section are Public Works Administration, General and Equipment Maintenance, Solid Waste and Recycling, Planning and Engineering Services and Infrastructure Maintenance.

Administration payroll increased 2.7% due to contractual obligations. General and Equipment Maintenance has a slight overall increase of 0.7%. Plow blades and chains decreased \$500 as a result of changing from steel to carbide. Gasoline increased by \$2,000, and uniform allowance was up by \$1,000. Contract and Maintenance Service has an increase of 1.7% due to a \$1,500 increase in road line striping.

Solid Waste and Recycling has significant changes due to groundwater monitoring at Holcomb Farm and a contract change \$4,300, Waste Collection \$8,955, and Recycling Collection \$3,210 which has a cost off set by money we get in return. Revenue is \$130,000, which comes from recycling money we get back from the transfer station and barrel sales and extra trash bags.

Planning and Engineering Services has no changes. Revenue is \$3,000 from Inland Wetlands activity.

Infrastructure Maintenance shows significant changes in Temp/Part-Time \$9,172, Fuel Oil \$10,000, Electricity \$5,000, Building Repairs \$8,000, and Heat Control & Misc. Svc. Contract \$4,500. Most of the increases are because of the Holcomb Farm and the new Pond House. Total increase is 7.5%. Revenue is \$30,000 from Holcomb Farm and land rentals.

First Selectman Adams began with Libraries, Recreation and Social Services. Categories under this section are Library Services, Social-Senior-Youth Services, Recreation Administration, and Community Support.

Director of Library Services Kathleen Marszycki spoke about some of the changes coming to the Library. Through a technology grant, they are planning to join a regional library consortium. This will help to bring our library more up to date with surrounding towns. The significant change would be the cost of joining the Library Connections Consortium, \$29,113. These funds for the first year would be set aside for future technology needs. This new system will be a great time and money saver and will also allow for a quicker response time for technical support. This is a member driven system and not for profit. Some lost hours and services have been added back but not all that were cut in 2010. There was an increase of 4.1% in Regular Payroll and 3.6% in Temp/Part-Time. Decreases were realized in services and supplies at 11.7% due to the use of email instead of postage as well as other decreases due to technology. Revenue is \$23,432, and the overall increase for Library Services is 6.3%.

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Board of Finance Chairman Mike Guarco inquired what it would take to add back all the hours and services that were cut from Library Services. First Selectman Adams responded most services have been recovered, but it would take approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 to fully restore all hours and services.

Director of Human Services KerryAnn Kielbasa reviewed Social-Senior-Youth Services.

The mission of the Granby Senior Center is to maximize the social, physical and educational well-being of older adults, nurture relationships and foster independence through involvement in the Senior Center community.

There are eight staff members including a Senior Center Program Coordinator, Transportation Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Congregate Meal Preparer, and one full-time and two part-time van drivers.

There are a variety of programs available including a meal program, exercise classes, computer classes, billiards league, camera, art and needle working groups, educational and health programs, Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, and the Senior Club.

There is a new program that will allow for dental cleaning for those that do not have dental insurance. The cost is \$70/visit and is subsidized through a sliding scale and a grant. Also available for loan is a supply of various donated pieces of medical equipment.

Senior Van miles driven have consistently increased each year.

Professional counseling services for children and families is available by three Master's level Marriage and Family Therapy interns. Also available are counseling services for children and families to address emotional, behavioral, or mental health issues.

Significant changes are Regular Payroll \$7,000 increase, as a result of grant fall-offs.

Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Thomas Tyburski reviewed Recreation Administration. Mr. Tyburski reported the biggest improvement to the department is the addition of online registrations and residents can pay by credit card or they may also pay by check in the recreation office. Sixty percent of registrations were done through the website, a big time saver. It was noted there were over 8,000 hits on the website this past year. Many new programs have been introduced, such as foreign language, fencing, and tubing. The ski program has been reorganized with easier transportation available. The pavilion rental fee structure has changed somewhat. The new Pond House is hoped to be up and running this summer with many new opportunities in the works. Holcomb Farm has been a challenge. As most programs previously were free, there is now a fee. The Workshop at Holcomb Farm seems to be busy all the time with 4-5 classes each week and meetings in the evening. There will still be summer camp programs and there is also the availability of renting space for large events such as weddings. There have been several large events already.

Town Manager Smith talked about the concept of integrating these services together: Libraries, Recreation, and Social Services. It seems to bring a lot of efficiency and enthusiasm. They blend together well.

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First Selectman Adams began the review of Other Funds. They include Dog Fund, Recreation Program Events Fund, Sewer Utility Fund, Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund, and Education Quality and Diversity Fund.

The Dog Fund 2013-14 budget request is increased from \$14,700 to \$15,000, an increase in Animal Control Officer expense. Audit fund balance for 2012 is \$18,405. Selectman Kuhnly asked the cost of licensing a dog. Town Clerk Karen Hazen replied \$8.00 for an altered dog and \$19.00 for an unaltered dog. Kennel licenses are \$51.00 for up to 10 dogs.

Recreation Program Events Fund revenues are increasing due to increased participation.

Town sewage flows to the Town of Simsbury Water Pollution Control Facility. Usage will be increasing due to an addition of a new apartment complex with 30 units. It was noted that there were recent major overhauls at the pump stations.

Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund totals are down from \$1,444,998 to \$1,328,324. Mr. Guarco inquired about the Communication Fund in relation to the cell tower on town property. Administration Finance Officer Barbarajean Scibelli indicated the town still gets money for the tower. Town Manager Smith indicated the town still gets inquires to the leasing rights to the tower. It is determined to be no benefit for the town to turn over leasing rights.

Education Quality and Diversity Fund's primary use was for Magnet School tuition. The Board of Education is also using the fund for full day kindergarten. Town Manager Smith indicated the town auditor indicated most towns operate this fund as we do.

First Selectman Adams began the review of Revenues. This includes Property Taxes, Intergovernmental Revenues, and Local Revenues and Fund Transfers.

The Grand List amount before Board of Assessment Appeals and other adjustments is \$954,142,310. This is a 10.58% decrease from the previous year's Grand List. With the Grand List growth factored in, the adjusted mill rate will change from 30.69 to 34.4. Granby is not the only town showing a decrease in the Grand List. Simsbury is down 14% and Canton is looking to increase their budget 4.8%. It was mentioned that if there was a 10% or greater fall off in value at revaluation, taxes should go down. If there was a 10% or greater increase in value at revaluation, taxes should go up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager